

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6624
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 09608

USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
SUBJ: EC CROP ESTIMATES FOR 1977 AND 1978

REF: BRUSSELS 1809

1. THE EC STATISTICAL OFFICE HAS JUST RELEASED REVISED
ESTIMATES OF THE 1977 HARVEST. THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS
SOME PRELIMINARY REMARKS ON THE OUTLOOK FOR THE 1978 CROP.
WITH REGARD TO 1977, THE ESTIMATE OF TOTAL GRAIN PRODUCTION
(EXCLUDING RICE) HAS BEEN INCREASED BY OVER 500,000 TONS
TO 103.6 MILLION TONS. PRODUCTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL GRAINS
IS ESTIMATED AS FOLLOWS (IN MILLION M.T.):

WHEAT: 38.3, OF WHICH SOFT WHEAT 36.1 AND DURUM 2.2;
RYE: 3.6; BARLEY: 37.8; OATS: 7.9; CORN: 15.6.
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PRODUCTION OF RICE IS ESTIMATED AT 590,000 TONS. OTHER
1977 PRODUCTION ESTIMATES ARE: DRIED PULSES, 787,000 TONS;
POTATOES, 38.7 MILLION TONS; TOBACCO, 174,000 TONS AND
HOPS, 47,400 TONS.

THE ESTIMATE OF THE SUGAR BEET HARVEST HAS BEEN INCREASED

FROM 79.3 TO 80.5 MILLION TONS. THE REPORT ALSO NOTES THAT F.O. LICHT ESTIMATES EC RAW SUGAR PRODUCTION AT 12.2 MILLION TONS.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE OUTLOOK FOR 1978, THE REPORT STATES THAT SOWINGS OF WINTER CEREALS WERE ON TIME AND ENJOYED FAVORABLE CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, WET AND COLD WEATHER HAS DELAYED SPRING SOWING OF GRAINS AND ROOT CROPS. BASED ON INCOMPLETE DATA, THE REPORT FORECASTS AN INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY 9 PERCENT IN WHEAT CULTIVATION IN 1978. A LARGER BARLEY AND CORN AREA IS ALSO EXPECTED (ALTHOUGH COMMISSION ANALYSTS TELL US THAT THE PERSISTENT COLD, WET WEATHER THIS SPRING WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT BARLEY AREA). CULTIVATION OF RYE, OATS AND POTATOES IS EXPECTED TO BE DOWN THIS YEAR, WHILE AREA PLANTED TO SUGAR BEETS SHOULD BE ABOUT THE SAME.HINTON

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